

Newcastle United's  
vice life-president  
Malcolm Dix, who  
has died aged 79



By **SOPHIE FINNEGAN**

Reporter

sophie.finnegan@reachplc.com

TRIBUTES have been paid to Newcastle United's vice life-president Malcolm Dix who has passed away at the age of 79 following a short illness.

Fans and sporting figures have since paid tribute to Malcolm who has been described as a "true black and white legend" following the sad news of his death on Wednesday.

As a member of the Magpie Group, Malcolm inspired Sir John Hall's takeover of the club in the early 1990s and as a result was rewarded with the title of honorary vice president.

Hall appointed Kevin Keegan as manager in 1992, a move that sparked a turnaround in the club's fortunes and led to back-to-back second-place finishes in the Premier League.

Malcolm was also one of the driving forces of Sport Newcastle for more than 40 years, serving faithfully in several positions from secretary to chairman and on to president.

He also worked with the likes of Newcastle Gosforth Rugby Club, becoming chairman of the board of management, the Tyne Theatre & Opera House trust, and dabbled in the North East music scene.

The local legend also helped form the Newcastle Supporters Association which brought premises next to where Chinatown now stands and launched the famous No.9 Bar.

Sir John said: "He was a true gentleman who did so much for our city and our club. Both owe him a great debt. I knew Malcolm from the early 80s when we stood on the terraces together and his love of Newcastle United always shone brightly.

"He was the one who badgered me long before anyone else to help democratise the club and without him, I would never have got involved.

"We had some wonderful times together and what we all achieved stands as a monument to him.

"I am busy putting together a private book called The Magpie Group: Battle

## TRIBUTES TO MAN DUBBED 'TRUE BLACK AND WHITE LEGEND'

For United and I dedicate it to him."

Paying tribute to the local legend, Newcastle United FC said: "We were saddened to learn of the passing of NUFC vice life-president, Malcolm Dix. The thoughts of everyone at Newcastle United are with Malcolm's family and friends."

Meanwhile, Newcastle Falcons said: "Sad news on a well-known figure in North East sport. Malcolm Dix was chairman of the club between 1990 and 1992 and fulfilled a variety of roles prior, as well as huge contributions with NUFC and Sport Newcastle.

"Our thoughts are with his friends and family. Rest in peace."

Sport Newcastle said: "We are extremely saddened to learn of the passing of Sport Newcastle President, Malcolm Dix aged 79. Malcolm will be fondly remembered as 'Mr Sport Newcastle'. We extend our deepest sympathies to Malcolm's family and friends at this sad time."

NUFC Fans Food Bank also paid tribute to Malcolm saying: "RIP Malcolm Dix. The very first Supporter for Change and one of The Magpie Group who revolutionised at NUFC.

"A great man who did so much for local charities, local sport and the football club for whom he was honorary vice-president and one of the club's best-ever NUFC fans."

Steve Wraith added to the tributes saying: "I worked with Malcolm on Entertainers charity matches and as part of the Tyne Theatre And Opera House Trust and Sport Newcastle committee. He was always capable of thinking outside the box. A true black and white legend."



# What Malcolm did for United and this city must never be forgotten

By JOHN GIBSON

MALCOLM DIX could well be viewed as the father of modern-day Newcastle United.

Because it was his relentless campaigning against what he perceived as a lack of ambition by the club's board of directors which changed the course of history.

He challenged those in power almost single-handedly, long before others took up the cudgel in an act which virtually ruined him financially.

However, refusing to give up the good fight, he inspired Sir John Hall and became a member of the Magpie Group which smashed the father-to-son hand-down of shares and propelled the modern-day trend for single-power ownership.

## SIR JOHN HALL LEADS TRIBUTES AS CAMPAIGNER WHO FOUGHT FOR MAGPIES' FUTURE DIES AGED 79

Dix, who has passed away after a short illness aged 79, was rewarded by Sir John upon takeover becoming an honorary vice-president of his beloved Magpies.

He saw his considerable efforts and the efforts of the Magpie Group as a whole reach wonderful fruition with Kevin Keegan and his Entertainers.

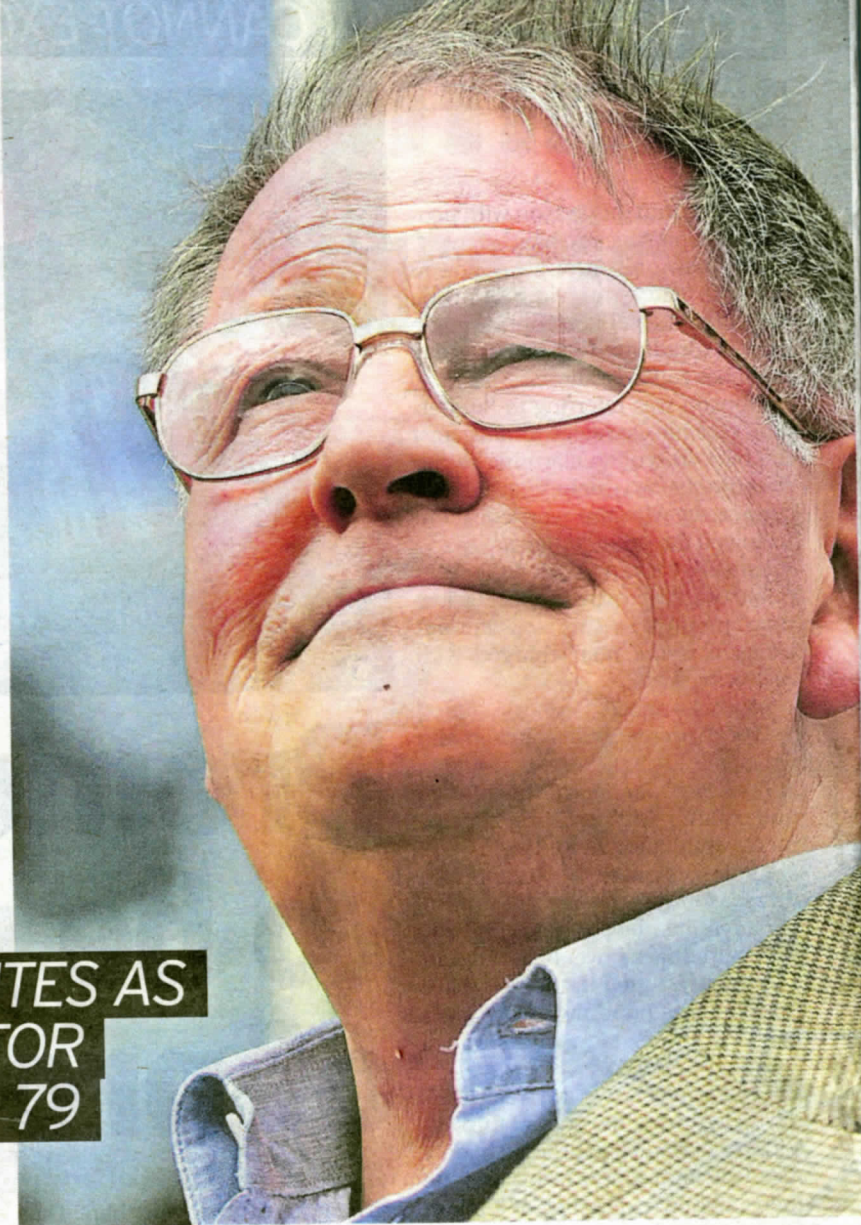
Sir John recognised the significance of Dix's stance, admitting in a moving tribute: "If Malcolm had never fought the first battle we

would never have won the war. What Malcolm did for not just the football club but this city must never be forgotten."

Originally hailed as the People's Champion for his endeavours on behalf of fans, Dix fought on through many a setback to democratise a club which is the heartbeat of the city.

However, his influence certainly spread much further than NUFC, reaching many sports and beyond.

He was one of the driving forces of



Sport Newcastle for more than 40 years, serving faithfully in several positions from secretary to chairman and on to president.

Malcolm also worked with the likes of Newcastle Gosforth rugby club, becoming chairman of the board of management, the Tyne Theatre and Opera House Trust and in his early days the North East music scene, ever willing to do his

bit rather than merely look on. I recall being in at the birth of Dix's sustained challenge to Magpie indifference. I sat in a pub within the shadow of St James Park listening to his brave, perhaps even suicidal plans to take on the might of a mighty football club.

He was a shareholder through his father Walter and, young and vibrant, he sought change.





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Sir John Hall

Dix helped form the Newcastle Supporters Association which bought premises next to where Chisnasholme now stands and launched the famous No.9 Bar.

It was opened by Jackie Milburn on June 9, 1980 and a horse-drawn open-topped coach transported famous centre-forwards such as Albert Stubbins, Peter Withe, Len White, Ron McGarry and Charlie Wayman to the grand unveiling.

The NSA launched its own newspaper "The Supporter" which was the forerunner of today's fanzines.

It printed 20,000 each edition and

was given away free at matches.

It was my privilege to work with Dix and the likes of John Waugh, Alan Rooney and Peter Ratchliffe as part of John Hall's Magpie Group which, after two years of bloody infighting, ousted the old board.

"He was a true gentleman who did so much for our city and our club," maintained Sir John.

"Both owe him a great debt. I knew Malcolm from the early eighties when we stood on the terraces together and his love of Newcastle

United always shone brightly.

"He was the one who badgered me long before anyone else to help democratise the club and without him I would never have got involved.

"We had some wonderful times together and what we all achieved stands as a monument to him. I am busy putting together a private book called The Magpie Group: Battle For United and I dedicate it to him."

Dix was greatly involved across the whole spectrum of Tyneside sport. I was also involved with him

from the birth of the Newcastle Sports Council through to its renaming as Sport Newcastle.

Countless youngsters like Jonathan Edwards received financial help before they became household names, while Newcastle's finest were anointed with its top award.

His work and the work of the Sports Council should never be underestimated.

Glenn McCrory, who remains Tyneside's only ever world boxing champion, said: "I was thrilled to win both Sports Personality of the Year and the Wilkinson Sword on

different occasions and I became a very close friend of Malcolm.

"We travelled all over the world and I will treasure the memories forever."

Steve Wraith added to the tributes, saying: "I worked with Malcolm on Entertainers charity matches and as part of the Tyne Theatre And Opera House Trust and Sport Newcastle committee. He was always capable of thinking outside the box. A true black-and-white legend."

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Malcolm Dix (centre) with Sir John Hall and the Chronicle's John Gibson